

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form has a thickness of from 10 to 150 μm .

Claim 4 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form is composed of polyolefins, polyolefin blends, polyurethane, flexible PVC or a combination thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form contains more than 0.15% by weight of a light stabilizer.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form is perforated, foamed or both.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the knitted fabric has a basis weight of from 10 to 200 g/m^2 .

Claim 8 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method of~~
Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the knitted fabric is composed of polyamide, polyester or
polyethylene.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method of~~
Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material is coated with from 10 to 80 g/m², of a self-
adhesive composition.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~
of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form is joined to the knitted fabric
by means of a laminating adhesive.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~
of claim 10, wherein the backing material in film form is joined to the knitted fabric by means
of a reactive laminating adhesive based on a two-part polyurethane.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~
of claim 10, wherein the laminating adhesive is applied over the complete area or partially.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~
of Claim ~~40~~ 15 or 16, wherein the base polymer of the pressure sensitive adhesive is
polyisobutylene or polyethylene-vinyl acetate.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~
~~of Claim 4~~ 15 or 16, wherein an adhesion promoter is situated between ~~the~~ backing material
in film form and pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A method for protecting the mechanical
protection of curved areas on the outside of automobiles which comprises applying to said
curved areas a protective sheet comprised of a backing material in film form having
a Young's modulus of less than 300 N/mm², an outer side and an inner side, the
outer side of which is laminated with a layer of knitted fabric and the inner side of
which is pressure-sensitively adhesive through application of a self-adhesive
composition ~~the self-adhesive article of Claim 1.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended). A method for the mechanical protection of painted
plastic automobile bumpers, which comprises applying to said bumpers a protective sheet
comprised of a backing material in film form having a Young's modulus of less
than 300 N/mm², an outer side and an inner side, the outer side of which is
laminated with a layer of knitted fabric and the inner side of which is pressure-
sensitively adhesive through application of a self-adhesive composition ~~the self-~~
~~adhesive article of Claim 1.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim ~~2~~ 15 or
16, wherein said Young's modulus is less than 150 N/mm².

Claim 18 (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 3, wherein said thickness is from 40-100 μm .

Claim 19 (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 5, wherein the backing material in film form contains more than 0.3% by weight of said light stabilizer.

Claim 20 (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 7, wherein said basis weight is from 20-80 g/m^2 .

Claim 21. (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 9, wherein said backing material is coated with from 15-40 g/m^2 of said self-adhesive composition.